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Application Serial No. 10/758,168
Attorney Docket No. 506431-0033

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) : C. Edward Baxter, Jr. et al.
Serial No. : 10/758,168
Filing Date : January 15, 2004
Title : APPARATUS FOR PREPARING POLYOLEFIN
PRODUCTS AND METHODOLOGY FOR USING
THE SAME

Group/Art Unit : 1713
Examiner : William K. Cheung
Confirmation No. : 4854

Atty. Docket No. : 506431-0033

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION WITHOUT AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is submitted in response to the official action mailed on May 20, 2004 in connection with the above-identified application. In connection with the action, it is respectfully suggested that the rejection of claims 1 through 3 is made in error and it is respectfully requested that the same be reconsidered and withdrawn. In this regard, the examiner is asked to please consider the following remarks in response to the rejection set forth in the action.

Certificate of Mailing Under 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

Date: 8/12/04
Signature: Debbie J Swenson
Printed Name: Debbie J Swenson

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-4409.

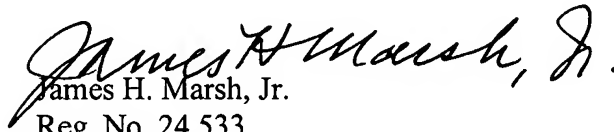
In the action, the examiner rejected claims 1 through 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious from Baxter, Jr. et al. (US 6,525,149). Applicants respectfully traverse the stated rejection and submit that in view of the following remarks it is clear that the invention of claims 1 through 3 is neither described nor suggested by the disclosure of Baxter, Jr. et al.

Baxter et al. disclose an apparatus and methodology for preparing a polyolefin product. With reference to Fig. 1 and the related discussion beginning at col. 12, l. 31, the product exits the apparatus via line 55 and is quenched and directed to a work-up system (not shown) where catalyst salts may be removed and the product separated from unreacted components and other undesirable contaminants. There is no further discussion of the quenching and/or work-up system. On the other hand, the present invention is directed to an improved crude polyolefin product catalyst removal and wash system. The system of the present invention receives the crude product from a line such as the line 55 of Baxter, Jr. et al. and performs the down stream operations directed to the production of a commercial product. No such system is described by Baxter et al., and in fact it is stated specifically in the Baxter, Jr. et al. disclosure that the work-up system is not shown. Clearly, therefore, the invention of claims 1 through 3, which is directed to a downstream work-up system that is completely separate from the Baxter, Jr. et al. reactor apparatus, is neither disclosed or rendered obvious by the cited Baxter, Jr. et al. reference. Hence, the stated rejection is not supported by the record and should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is clear that Baxter, Jr. et al. neither disclose nor suggest the invention of claims 1 through 3 and it is therefore submitted that this application is completely free of the cited art and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable action

at an early date will be appreciated. If the examiner is of the view that any issue remains unresolved, it is respectfully suggested that applicants' undersigned attorney may be contacted at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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